

DREW

UNIV.

ACORN

Vol XLV

JAN

1971

drew acorn

student newspaper
of
the college



special edition

DREW UNIVERSITY, MADISON, NEW JERSEY

special edition

Special edition



Dean Stonesifer resigns

Dean Stonesifer resigns to take Monmouth Presidency

President Robert F. Oxman of Drew University announced January 14 the resignation of Dr. Richard J. Stonesifer, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, to become president of Monmouth College, West Long Branch, N.J. The resignation takes effect June 30.

Commenting on the move, President Oxman said, "Dr. Stonesifer is a highly competent administrator. He has made a significant contribution to the College of Liberal Arts of Drew University. We will miss him, but we are pleased that he has been given this increased, major responsibility. Considerable strengthening of the College has taken place since July 1 1965, due in large part to the leadership."

At Monmouth, a private, coeducational institution with an enrollment of 5,500 Dr. Stonesifer will step into the post to be left vacant by the retirement of President William G. Van Note, who has reached mandatory retirement age.

Before coming to Drew Dr. Stonesifer served as assistant to the provost at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the College of General Studies, a post he accepted in 1963. Simultaneously, he held the academic rank of associate professor in the Annenberg School of Communications.

Between 1947 and 1963 he was assistant to the president and director of public relations at Franklin and Marshall College, having previously served that institution as associate professor of English and as assistant to the dean of the Evening Division.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Stonesifer received his A.B. degree, cum laude, from Franklin and Marshall. He

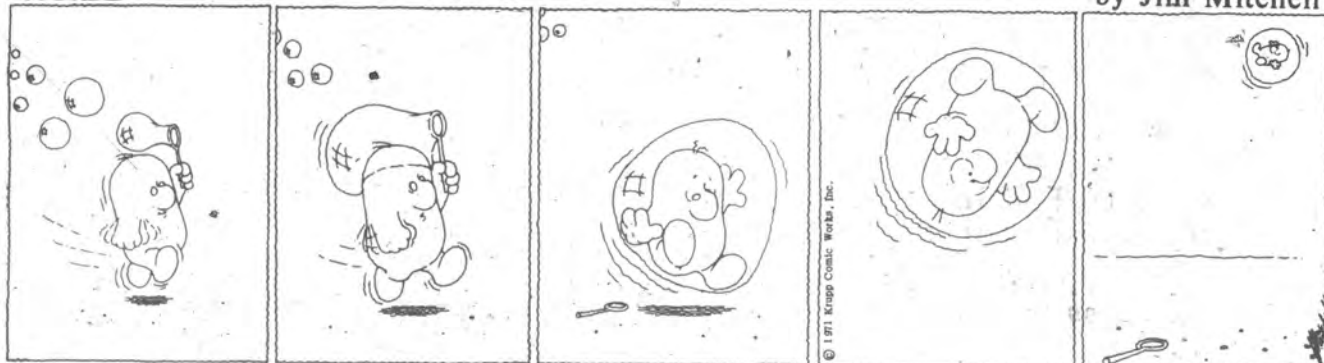
was awarded the M.A. degree from Northwestern University and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. During a World War II tour of duty with the Air Force in England, he studied at Shrivenham American University and Oxford University.



Dean Richard J. Stonesifer

You can't always
get what you want

by Jim Mitchell



Released Thursday

Dean's resignation statement

January 11, 1971

President Robert F. Oxman
Drew University
Madison, New Jersey

Dear President Oxman:

I wish to resign my appointment as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and as Professor of English, effective June 30, 1971. I make this request in order to accept an invitation to become the President of Monmouth College, West Long Branch, New Jersey, immediately thereafter.

May I in resigning pay special tribute to my colleagues on the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts. No administrator could ask for a more cooperative and courteous group, and I am indebted to them for the way in which they have worked with me in my years at Drew University in moving the College forward. Mrs. Stonesifer and I know that in departing from Drew we remove ourselves from daily association with a highly dedicated and professional group, and we hope that the friendships which we have made here will endure for the years to come. We would hope that they will enjoy your vigorous and continued support in the years immediately ahead as they work to forward the development of the college.

I will in the Spring Semester be involved not only in winding up matters under my immediate direction here but in being briefed about affairs at Monmouth College and in doing some work in connection with the developing master plan for the State of New Jersey for higher education overall. I would therefore request, if at all possible, that I be relieved from teaching the seminar now assigned to me for Spring 1971, which involves only seven or eight students. I make this request since I can now cancel my application for a sabbatical leave in Spring 1972, which I am now scheduled for at Drew, a step which I take with some hesitation since in twenty-four years in higher education I have not had such a leave, and now probably will never have one.

Mrs. Stonesifer joins me in requesting that our departure not be marked by any reception or other formalities. In assuming his post as Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Bard Thompson started a new deanly tradition at Drew--the elimination of an installation ceremony, and the shifting of the dollars saved into the budget; I would request that as I depart I be permitted to institute something similar at the other end of the deanly progress, i.e., the elimination of the usual formalities and the dollars saved put into the instructional budget of the College of Liberal Arts. No better year for such a step can be imagined, and I can think of no worthier cause than the College of Liberal Arts.

Finally, may I thank you and Mrs. Oxman for courtesies and kindnesses too many to mention.

Sincerely, Richard J. Stonesifer
Dean

On the resignation

Faculty and student comments

What is your reaction to the resignation of Dean Stonesifer?

I hope he doesn't constipate Monmouth college.--Harry Litwack.

He'll probably give it diarrhea. I'm happy but fearful of any promotions that might result, for any lower ranking administrators.--Joe Calvet

None that can be printed. Best phrase is ecstatic joy.--Jon Bay and Joel DiMatteo

Is Mrs. Calhoun the new dean?--Jim Willis

Although we had many differences, I think he was a good administrator. I hope he's happy at Monmouth. I hope their students are happy.--Peter Hoffman

I hope the new Dean has a good sense of humor.--Mary Numata

Drew hasn't been this happy since the flu epidemic a few years ago when classes were cancelled.--David Little

I don't think things could have been any worse. They must get better now.--Joe James

That's really fantastic! Couldn't say anything else that wouldn't be censored. I really don't like him.--Jackie Treschuk

Maybe now the college will have a chance to grow, expand, and experiment --to be a place for free learning without a mechanical man at its head.--Glen Surgeon.

I'm not sure, it depends on who they get to replace him. After all, we could get a male Suzy Creamcheese.--Anonymous

I hope the new Dean will be an equally potent force on this campus, but with more understanding of the needs of Drew students.--Chuck Lisburger.

Hurray! High spot in the middle of exam week.--Margaret Moore

The second event of the year that has united the students. The first was the Cranks.--Maria Derr

It seemed that he was after Oxman's job. I'm surprised.--Anonymous

I think it's one of the best things that ever happened to this school.--Dave Bryan.

I'm sure as hell not transferring to Monmouth.--Anonymous

I hope he gets a lot of surfing done. I always knew he was a beach bunny at heart.--Tom Ward

Dean Stonesifer was the foremost obstacle to any progressive change in the academic program of this college. Students should play an important role in the selection of the new Dean.--Tom Quirk

Hot Shit! I think that just about sums up the overall campus attitude.--Eric P. Otto

Q? What is your reaction to Dean Stonesifer's resignation?

Answers:

Jensen: I'm sorry to see him go. It will be difficult to get a better man to replace him.

O'Kane: I think the general reaction here is ambivalent. It's a better move for him, but it's a loss for Drew.

Von de Heide: Let's hope that the interests of the college aren't overlooked in the midst of discussions about the man.

Baker: My only comment is let's not lose on the exchange.

Q. Dr. Baker, there has been some speculation that you might be chosen as Stonesifer's successor. What's your reaction to this?

A. That's so speculative as to be ridiculous. I'm not aware that colleges are choosing 61 year old deans these days.

Q. Do you think students should have a role in choosing Stonesifer's successor?

A. O'Kane: What kind of a role? I think they should be consulted.

A. Jensen: I would be very happy to see students consulted in the choosing of a new Dean.



OTHER SCENES

CAN BE SMOKED OR EATEN

It's the first magazine of the grass generation. It assumes we are speaking the same language. John Wilcock's *Other Scenes* is written in code and those who care to decipher it are advised to subscribe.

VISIT YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL NEWSSTAND

Or send us \$6 to subscribe thru 1971. We cover all aspects of the (international) alternative society.

Name.....

Address.....

Zip.....

Mail to Box 8, Village P.O., New York 10014

Comments from the editors

Ken Schulman, Editor

Perhaps it would be cruel to write that we should be happy to see Dean Stonesifer leave Drew University but it would also be dishonest not to write such a statement. It has been no secret that many students have had bad vibrations toward the Dean of the College. And the ACORN has leveled very few platitudes at the Dean.

With no reservations we wish Dean Stonesifer the best of luck at Monmouth College. As President of a College he may better be able to deal with the students. We neither intend to compare the Dean's accomplishments with his failures or deride his presence at Drew. But it is truly unfortunate that such a good administrator is

also such a horrible politician, that such an uninhibited person is such a dangerous Dean of the College, that he has been both straightforward and underhanded, sometimes simultaneously.

We most certainly believe that students must have a part in the choosing of the new Dean of the College. That is mandatory. There is no question that students now can exert some power.

The only other thing that we should point out was a fairly innocuous Christmas gift to Drew University that appeared in the December 11 ACORN: "To Drew University we give a new Dean of Students and a new Dean of the College." Happy New Year.

Michele Fabrizio, Associate Editor

When we were accosted with the news of Dean Richard Stonesifer's resignation, we raised more than a few eyebrows. After being in the company of such an ambitious, concerned and dedicated man since 1965, frankly, we found it a little earth-shattering that he would, in the middle of a school year and snow storm, abandon ivy-halled Drew.

What we find even more amusing is that the

man who wished to transform Drew University into another Swarthmore in New Jersey actually settled for a Monmouth in Long Branch.

We send Richard Stonesifer to Monmouth with best wishes for a successful and not too stormy career. And to his successor, the guy who will pick up the torch, we sincerely hope that he doesn't get burned.

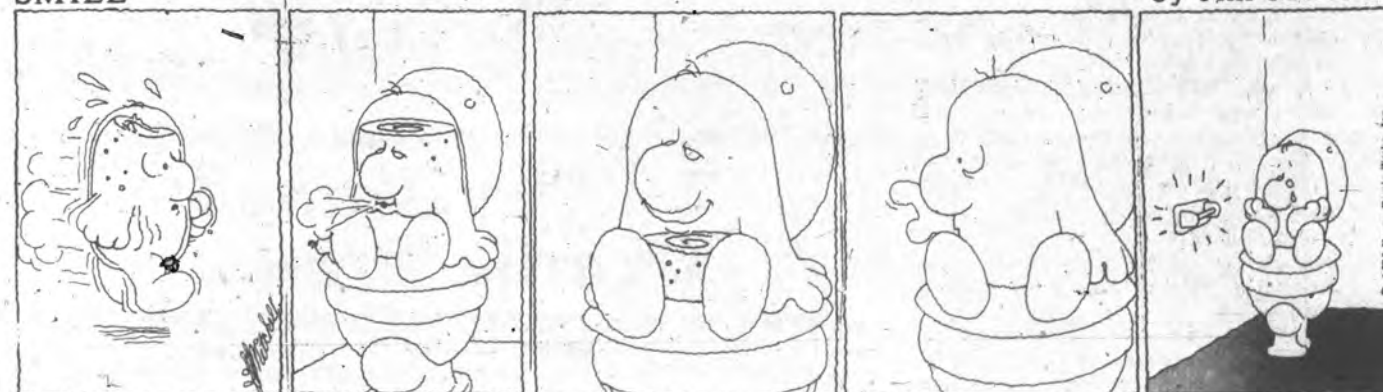
Martha Millard, Associate Editor

Although at the time of his resignation as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts we wish Richard Stonesifer a successful stint as

President of Monmouth College, we feel the uppermost issue now is the process of selection of a new Dean at Drew.

We sincerely hope that the faculty and administration will take this excellent opportunity to allow the student body to exercise some thoughts on what the Dean of the College should be, if the students show sufficient interest in this, as we believe and hope they will.

SMILE



by Jim Mitchell

Famous or infamous?

1965: The Dean's first year

by Tom Ward

(Editor's note: The following article was written about three months ago, obviously before there was any knowledge of Dean Stonesifer's resignation and appointment to be President of Monmouth College.)

Those readers who have had the dubious privilege of listening to speeches of Dean Richard J. Stonesifer, have probably noticed the phrase "when I came here in 1965" which punctuates his texts. Just what was the reaction to Richard Stonesifer when he came to Drew in 1965? The following are excerpts from the ACORN October 18 of that year.

In his installatory address, Dr. Stonesifer, Drew's new Dean of Students, came out strongly for a creative and future-oriented approach toward liberal arts education. The tone of his speech was set by such elevated quotations as the following, from A.N. Whitehead:

"For successful education there must always be a certain freshness with the knowledge dealt with. It must be either new in itself, or it must be invested with some novel application to the new world of new times."

Knowledge does not keep any better than fish."

By employing the philosophy of Whitehead, Dean Stonesifer managed to construct the facade of a truly progressive academician. But to go on:

"...A man must be free to search for the truth but if a scholar is 'out of step' with the majority of his colleagues, he should seriously question the wisdom of his own position."

So much for progressivism. Though the preceding statement is obviously a check on the latitude of academic freedom as pertains to the teacher, Dean Stonesifer, already establishing the "Janus-like" rhetoric we have all grown to love, in his next breath says,

"As Dean, I would have to say that the methodology a professor chooses, is wholly the professor's."

Inconsistent? William Chambers, author of the article being quoted, found some trouble in deciphering the Dean.

We confess to having some initial verbal confusion over Dean Stonesifer's position...

Bill Chambers must have surely been confused for he sums up his article on Stonesifer with what now are bizarre conclusions.

This reporter is firmly convinced that an educator so liberal in policy, so dynamic in scope, MUST conceive the place of a liberal arts college to be well within

the mainstream of current history, in the "new world of new times," and MUST conceive an equally dynamic role for the students and faculty alike, in whose "maturity and sophistication" he expressed such confidence. In saying, "It is no longer possible to avoid the dangers of the future by ignoring them," the Dean has challenged us all. We interpret this challenge as a call to activism.

Dean Stonesifer must have changed an awful lot in five years; none for the better. What happened to that liberal, forward thinking scholar? What happened to the dynamic challenger? The fact is, he never existed. What Bill Chambers saw was a phony. A man who has become drunk with power and blinded by an ambition to become a college president. Dean Stonesifer wants to have all his fingers

in all the pies, peachy or otherwise.

A faculty member (other than Chester Williams) noticed Dean Stonesifer's tendency to act as the "great interloper."

"Stonesifer seems to thrive on making decisions and setting policies in areas with which he is unfamiliar. I don't understand why he (Stonesifer) involves himself in matters that don't even concern him."

As Presidential timber, Stonesifer is a mere toothpick. At a student senate meeting October 14, 1970, Dean Stonesifer expressed the desire to make Drew "a Swarthmore for New Jersey." Stonesifer is afraid to be innovative so why not copy some other school. A girl at the meeting asked the Dean why Drew, in fact, could not be Drew. I wonder if he heard her.



"WHAT A ROUSER!"

LOOK MAGAZINE

"Fantastic love scenes!"
Harold Alston, Manhattan

"The final act of violence may be one of the coldest moments ever put on film!"
—Vincent Canby, New York Times

"Real and Raw."
Mrs. J. Caselli, Brooklyn

"Blood & guts, one helluva picture!"
Jack Traynor, Lindenhurst, L. I.

Charlie Brown and the 'Peanuts' Gang in their First Movie!

"A Boy Named Charlie Brown"

A LEE MENDELSON • BILL MELENDEZ PRODUCTION Directed by BILL MELENDEZ and Written by CHARLES M. SCHULZ
Produced by LEE MENDELSON and BILL MELENDEZ Music and Lyrics by ROD MCKUEN Original Music Score by VINCE GUARALDI
Musical Director JOHN SCOTT TROTTER TECHNICOLOR • A NATIONAL GENERAL PICTURES RELEASE
A CINEMA CENTER FILMS PRESENTATION

News analysis Stonesifer and student politics

by David Confer

Every student leader that I have ever talked with during the past three years at Drew has had a negative opinion of Dean of the College Richard Stonesifer. He has come to be regarded as "The Enemy" of the interests of the Student Body. He is usually described as slick, two-faced, double-dealing, power hungry, close-minded, and an expert in the art of political sophistry.

It is amazing how these opinions coincide with each other. Why has the Dean presented this consistent image over the past few years? He has pursued power on campus avidly, and is now regarded as by far the most powerful member of the Drew academic community. One had only to see him at work during the comprehensive exam controversy of last year to appreciate his control over the Administration and Faculty. He rarely approaches Student proposals with anything resembling an open mind, but rather seems to be predisposed to reject them "out of hand". From the student point of view, he always seems to play a negative role. Why?

From my discussions with different student leaders who have dealt with the Dean during the past few years, I have been able to deduce several attitudes which are central to the latter's thinking. Perhaps these will answer some of the previous questions:

1. typical of his generation - He accepted the values and structure of the existing college establishment when he was young. Furthermore, he is motivated by a desire to rise to the top of this establishment (i.e. President of some well-known, respectable university). This is more or less typical of his generation, which seldom questioned society's institutions, but rather defined success as the attainment of power and prestige within them. He talks with pride of having accepted the challenge of the University of Pennsylvania graduate school and having successfully measured up to it.

2. perplexed by today's students - Because of his acceptance of the traditional university establishment at an early age, he is puzzled by today's college students who are challenging basic tenets of this establishment - e.g. marking systems, traditional role of faculty vs. students, traditional teaching methods and class structures.

3. student role - Relating to his own approach when he was a student, he believes the student should choose the school with the system he wants, accept the challenge of the system, and successfully measure up to it. He sees little if any role for the student in the formu-

lation of academic policy. He made this quite clear during last year's comp. exam controversy. He simply feels that the student is not yet qualified to know what is best for himself or the educational system as a whole.

4. negative view of student-initiated change - Because of this view of the role and abilities of the student, he views any student movement for change as a threat to the academic community, and therefore himself. He sees the students as an un-thinking mob, moved by emotion and instinct rather than reason, a force to be controlled rather than reasoned with. This is why he invariably takes a negative position even before students have spelled out the specifics of a proposal, and why he does not keep an open mind or show concern for student complaints.

5. role as administrator - As you have probably already surmised, he bears few emotional ties with students, but rather views his mission with students only in the most abstract sense. He pushes an image of the cool, efficient administrator. One should keep in mind that he is not playing his role for the benefit of the students or even the faculty, but rather for his fellow "union" members - old-style college administrators at well-known, respectable universities. These are the people whose admiration he seeks, and with whom his ambitions lie (see point #1).

6. role as placator - Because of his: a) absence of emotional identification with students and their problems, b) low opinion of students' ability to comprehend educational problems, c) firm belief in traditional supremacy of faculty over students, and d) negative position towards any important student-initiated change,

(Editor's note: The ACORN feels that it is appropriate to rerun the following article which originally appeared in the November 13 issue of the paper.)



Dean Richard Stonesifer

Dean Stonesifer sees his role as one of placating student reformers (in the Bismarckian tradition). He always seems to have his hands in student affairs, using tactics which have earned him the adjectives I mentioned in the first paragraph of this article.

Student leaders have learned that to make any headway they must work around Dean Stonesifer rather than through him. But this is difficult, because he controls virtually all institutional channels through which student proposals must go. The strategy of going through individual departments rather than the faculty as a whole may prove the most successful.

Feelings against the Dean run deep. Many would like him to make the "big mistake" from which a movement for dismissal could be developed, but knowing his deft political footwork, few are going to hold their breath waiting.



Why is the man on the left smiling?

drew acorn special edition



Richard J. Stonesifer 1965-1971